Proof Society 2025 General Meeting (public)

Thursday 4th September 2025, Ghent and online

Agenda:
1. List of presents and apologies
2. Approval of minutes from the last meeting:
   https://www.proofsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/PS-General-Meeting-12_09_2024.pdf
3. Report on PS meeting 2025 (our current meeting)
4. Organisation of PS School and Workshop 2026: when, where? What should be the format of the event?
5. Report on PS online seminar:
   https://www.proofsociety.org/activities-and-resources/proof-society-seminar/
6. PS website: suggestions and improvements
7. Elections
8. Indicative date of the next general meeting
9. Any other business

The meeting took place during the Proof Society workshop, and it was also broadcasted online. Both committee members of the PS and attendees of the workshop were present to the meeting.

Here follows a list of people present to the meeting, in person or online.

Committee members (in alphabetical order): Anupam Das (AD), Lev Beklemishev (LB) [online], Marianna Girlando (MG), Antonina Kolokova (AK) [online], Andreas Weiermann (AW).

Workshop attendees (in alphabetical order): Amirhossein Akbar Tabatabai (University of Groningen), Arnold Beckmann (University of Swansea), Julien Daard (University of Ghent), Alakh Dhruv Chopra (University of Ghent), Luke Dowling, Marcel Ertel (University of Tübingen), Iris van der Giessen (University of Amsterdam), Oriola Gjetaj (University of Ghent), Vitor Rodrigus Greati (University of Groningen), Raheleh Jalali (University of Bath), Koshiro Ichikawa (Nagano University), Brett McLean (University of Ghent), Konstantinos Papafilippou (University of Ghent), Fedor Pakhomov (University of Ghent), Elaine Pimentel (UCL), Alvaro Pintado (University of Pennsylvania), Anton Setzer (Swansea University), Giovanni Soldà (University of Ghent), Henry Towsner (University of Pennsylvania).

The meeting is chaired by AD.

AD opens the meeting by welcoming the audience and thanking them for being present. No apologies were received. Next, the minutes of the meeting from the last PS assembly (the public meeting) were approved.

Report on PS meeting 2025
AW reports on the PS meeting 2025, currently taking place in Ghent. After a brief mention of previous events, AW describes the current meeting. Each lecturer in the PS school gave three lectures, and there

were only 4 tutorials, instead of the 5 which were originally planned (one speaker had to cancel for visa reasons). As a result, the schedule was quite relaxed with extensive lunch breaks, and this was appreciated by the participants. There were 43 participants registered to the school and 52 participants registered to the workshop, of which approximately 10 were local. The excursion had to be interrupted because of bad weather, and participants will be refunded.

The numbers of participants of this edition were a bit lower than usual, and in particular lower than in the previous edition of the PS event (Birmingham, 2024). Other than the usual fluctuation of numbers, this can be explained by the fact that advertisement was done close to the event. For next events, we will try to have an advertisement strategy. AD proposed to put together a handbook for organisers of PS events, to facilitate the conference organisation.

Organisation of PS School and Workshop 2026

AD reports that the 2026 event of the Proof Society (school + workshop) will be organised by Alexis Saurin. The event will take place in France, in a location yet to be determined: originally the CIRM in Marseille was contacted, but this did not go through. The options are:
- Paris, in which case the event will take place at the end of August 2026
- Aussois (CNRS research centre), in which case the event will take place in early September 2026.

The assembly then discusses the structure of the PS event, which at the moment is: three day school followed by two-day workshop. The two-day workshop is quite on the limit, as the number of submissions can be high. The following ideas were raised:
- Devote only half of Wednesday to the school, and the rest to the workshop. So both the school and the workshop would last two and a half days each. This would involve reducing the program of the school, as happened this year. The suggestion of reducing the content of the school was supported by students - less content means that one can have more time to absorb the subject.
- Separate the school and the workshop, so the workshop can take three days.
- Keeping the school and workshop together, but allowing the workshop to take three days, so finishing on the Saturday.
- One solution (implemented in the PS event in Birmingham) is to announce the school and workshop as a joint event, and then let the organisers decide how much time the workshop is going to take, depending on the number of submissions. This mitigates the problem that the organisers need to schedule the workshop in advance, without knowing how many submissions there will be.

It is concluded that the PS will continue to experiment, and that the most important is to listen to the attendees of the school and workshop, to understand what works well and what can be improved. AD encourages everyone to reach out to the committee members for suggestions.

AD then reports on the status of the PS event for 2027. There are two informal bids:
- Bath, organised by Tom Powell and Nicolas Pinschke
- Würzburg, organised by Anton Freund

AD encourages everyone interested in organising a PS event to get in touch with the committee members. In case of several bids, the members will vote to decide. The PS is happy to take the event to new cities and countries.

Proof Society online seminar

LB reports on the seminar. There have been three talks up to now, by Jeremy Avigad, Henri Townsed and Stepan Kuznetsov. The talks went well and were generally well attended. Most of the audience came from

Russian institutions, which was not intended. The seminar will restart in October, and a talk by Juliette Kennedy on 17 November 2025. Regarding what to improve, LB says that, going forward, the information about upcoming talks will be distributed more in advance (aiming at one month in advance) and more efficiently.

The audience raises questions and suggestions about the distribution of the seminars, which are answered by LB, AD or MG:
- Question: Is there a dedicated means in which talks and conferences of the PS are announced? Answer: There is a mailing list of the seminar, comprising approximately 70 participants. All the participants in the meeting are encouraged to sign up to the mailing list to increase this number!
- Question: Why are the seminars not advertised on the PS mailing list? Answer: The PS mailing list is reserved for elections and other administrative matters. The seminars are also meant to be advertised on existing mailing lists, to reach a diverse audience.
- Suggestion: There could be a seminar calendar as a plugin on the PS website, and people could get updates about the seminar by subscribing to the calendar.
- Suggestion: To improve visibility, the seminar could appear as a banner on the side of the PS website; or at least as a separate item in the top menu.

The seminar organisers are thankful for all the suggestions.

Website

MG reports on the PS website. MG has been maintaining and updating the webpage, which is a WordPress page. She could use some help in keeping the page up-to-date, as well as in improving the content and appearance of the webpage. Iris van der Giessen volunteers to help.

AW observes that the resource page on the website will soon be populated, in particular on the teaching side. e.g. learning paths (this year's lecturers will be asked to put together a list of suggested reading).

Elections

AD informs the members that the mandate of the current committee of the PS will end in fall 2026, so next year there will be elections. Moreover, Bahareh Afshari and AK were there to help the transition of the PS, but it was agreed that they only served for one year. It is therefore time to have elections! The PS committee will send an email about this. Anyone interested is encouraged to approach the committee members, either in person or via email.

Next general meeting

The next general meeting will happen in the next proof theory event.

Any other business

AW announces that LB will join the team in Gent. No other issues were raised to discuss.